

IN THE CLAIMS:

Would the Office kindly enter the following amended claims:

- 1.(currently amended)A gardening system comprising a container having a bottom wall and a side wall extending upwardly therefrom, a soil support insert spaced from said bottom wall to define a space between said bottom wall and said soil support insert, at least one wall extending downwardly from said soil support member to define a cavity, a plurality of ~~apertures~~ elongated slots in said downwardly extending wall, water in said container, an air-space between an upper surface of said water and said soil support member, a non-soil growing medium within said cavity, said non-soil growing medium including mycorrhizal fungi, and a soil on top of said non-soil growing medium.
- 2.(cancelled)
- 3.(currently amended) The gardening system of Claim [[2]] 1 wherein said elongated slots have a width of between 1.5 and 3 mm.
- 4.(original) The gardening system of Claim 1 wherein said non-soil growing medium comprises vermiculite or any root growth promoting material that is environment friendly, hydrophilic, non toxic, imputrescible, inert and light.
- 5.(original) The gardening system of Claim 4 wherein there are provided a plurality of walls extending downwardly to thereby define a plurality of cavities, each of said downwardly extending walls having a plurality of elongated slots formed therein.
- 6.(original) The gardening system of Claim 5 wherein said plurality of cavities comprises at least 2 cavities in a side by side relationship.
- 7.(original) The gardening system of Claim 1 wherein said container has a plurality of

said soil support inserts placed therein.

8.(original) The gardening system of Claim 7 wherein said soil support inserts have an overall arcuate configuration.

9.(original) The gardening system of Claim 3 wherein said elongated slots are defined by parallel ribs therebetween, each of said ribs having an arcuate inner surface to prevent damage to the roots growing therethrough.

10.(original) The gardening system of Claim 3 wherein said elongated slots are defined by parallel ribs therebetween, each of said ribs being made of a compliant material to allow root growth and root diameter increment therethrough.

11.(currently amended) A gardening system comprising a container having a bottom wall and a side wall extending upwardly therefrom, a soil support insert spaced from said bottom wall to define a space between said bottom wall and said soil support insert, at least one wall extending downwardly from said soil support member to define a cavity, a plurality of ~~apertures~~ elongated slots in said downwardly extending wall, water in said container, an air-space between an upper surface of said water and said soil support member, a non-soil growing medium within said cavity, a vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizal inoculum placed on top of said non-soil growing medium and a soil on top of said mycorrhizal inoculum.

12.(currently amended) A gardening method comprising the steps of supplying a gardening system comprising a container having a bottom wall and a side wall extending upwardly therefrom, a soil support insert spaced from said bottom wall to define a space between said bottom wall and said soil support insert, at least one wall extending downwardly from said soil support member to define a cavity, a plurality of

~~apertures~~ elongated slots in said downwardly extending wall, water in said container, an air-space between an upper surface of said water and said soil support member, putting a non-soil growing medium within said cavity, placing a vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizal inoculum on top of said non-soil growing medium and subsequently putting a soil on top of said mycorrhizal inoculum.